

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
processing a file request to add a target file to a file system;
determining whether a rule specifies a file attribute indicating a file type attribute satisfied by the target file;
in response to determining that the target file satisfies the file type attribute of the determined rule, determining whether a condition concerning a size threshold specified by the determined rule is satisfied;
in response to determining that the condition is satisfied, performing an action specified by the determined rule, wherein the action comprises blocking the request to add the target file to the file system; and
forwarding the file request to the file system to add the target file to the file system if the specified condition concerning the size threshold is not satisfied.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether one rule specifies the file attribute comprises processing file attributes associated with the target file to determine whether the file attributes are included in the rule.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining whether the rule specifies the file attribute comprises:
processing a rules database including a plurality of rules, where each rule indicates a file attribute, a condition, and an action performed if the condition and file attribute are satisfied.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the rules in the rules database implement space management, security, and data protection policies.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein a plurality of rules apply to the file request to determine whether to execute multiple actions in response to the file request.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a file attribute of at least one additional rule is used to apply an action specified in the at least one additional rule to files having at least one of a plurality of attributes comprising: a file name, a file directory, and an application originating the request.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one additional rule specifies a condition used to apply an action specified in the at least one additional rule when the condition is satisfied, wherein the condition in the at least one additional rule comprises at least one of a plurality of conditions comprising: a source of the file request originating from a specified application; a user initiating the file request specified as an authorized user; and available space in a storage system including the target file having a minimum available space.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein an attribute and condition specified in at least one additional rule check whether an application originating the file request is an authorized application, wherein an action specified by the at least one additional rule blocks the file request if the application is not authorized or passes the file request to the file system to execute if the application is authorized.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the processing of the file request and the rule is performed by a program executing in a kernel of an operating system to process all requests directed to the file system, wherein the program comprises an extension of the file system.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled

15. (Canceled

16. (Canceled

17. (Previously Presented) A system comprising:
a file system including a plurality of files;
means for processing a file request to add a target file to the file system;
means for determining whether a rule specifies a file attribute indicating a file type attribute satisfied by the target file;
means for determining, in response to determining that the target file satisfies the file type attribute of the determined rule, whether a condition concerning a size threshold specified by the determined rule is satisfied;
means for performing, in response to determining that the condition is satisfied, an action specified by the determined rule, wherein the action comprises blocking the request to add the target file to the file system; and
means for forwarding the file request to add the target file to the file system if the specified condition concerning the size threshold is not satisfied.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for determining whether the rule specifies the file attribute performs:
processing a rules database including a plurality of rules, where each rule indicates a file attribute, a condition, and an action performed if the condition and file attribute are satisfied.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the rules in the rules database implement space management, security, and data protection policies.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein an attribute and condition specified in at least one additional rule check whether an application originating the file request is an authorized application, wherein an action specified by the at least one additional rule blocks the file request if the application is not authorized or passes the file request to the file system to execute if the application is authorized.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein the means for processing the file request and the rule comprises a program executing in a kernel of an operating system that [[process]] processes all requests directed to the file system, wherein the program comprises an extension of the file system.

23. (Canceled

24. (Canceled

25. (Canceled

26. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture for processing a file request to operate on a target file that is directed to a file system, wherein the article of manufacture causes operations to be performed, the operations comprising:

processing a file request to add a target file to a file system;

determining whether a rule specifies a file attribute indicating a file type attribute satisfied by the target file;

in response to determining that the target file satisfies the file type attribute of the determined rule, determining whether a condition concerning a size threshold specified by the determined rule is satisfied;

in response to determining that the condition is satisfied, performing an action specified by the determined rule, wherein the action comprises blocking the request to add the target file to the file system; and

forwarding the file request to the file system to add the target file to the file system if the specified condition concerning the size threshold is not satisfied.

27. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein determining whether one rule specifies the file attribute comprises processing file attributes associated with the target file to determine whether the file attributes are included in the rule.

28. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein determining whether the rule specifies the file attribute comprises:

processing a rules database including a plurality of rules, where each rule indicates a file attribute, a condition, and an action performed if the condition and file attribute are satisfied.

29. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein the rules in the rules database implement space management, security, and data protection policies.

30. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 28, wherein a plurality of rules apply to the file request to determine whether to execute multiple actions in response to the file request.

31. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein a file attribute of at least one additional rule is used to apply an action specified in the at least one additional rule to files having at least one of a plurality of attributes comprising: a file name, a file directory, and an application originating the request.

32. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein at least one additional rule specifies a condition used to apply an action specified in the at least one additional rule when the condition is satisfied, wherein the condition comprises at least one of a plurality of conditions comprising: a source of the file request originating from a specified

application; a user initiating the file request specified as an authorized user; and available space in a storage system including the target file having a minimum available space.

33. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein an attribute and condition specified in at least one additional rule check whether an application originating the file request is an authorized application, wherein an action specified by the at least one additional rule blocks the file request if the application is not authorized or passes the file request to the file system to execute if the application is authorized.

34. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the file request is to add the target file to the file system, and wherein the attribute and condition specified in the rule check whether the target file is of a specified type and size threshold, wherein the action blocks the file request to add the target file if the specified type and size threshold is [[exceed]] exceeded or passes the file request to the file system to execute if the specified type is satisfied and the specified size threshold is not satisfied.

35. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the processing of the file request and the rule is performed by a program executing in a kernel of an operating system to process all requests directed to the file system, wherein the program comprises an extension of the file system.

36. (Canceled

37. (Canceled)

38. (Canceled

39. (Canceled

40. (Canceled

41. (Canceled